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BULLETIN

of the

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH

THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL

LIBRARIES

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Editorial Notes.

I had hoped to be able to include a list of members in this issue but I understand from Miss Ferrier, the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, that this would be a little premature; subscriptions are still coming in, albeit somewhat slowly. No doubt this is due in part to the delays which seem inseparable from institutional payments, but the Association needs all the support it can get if it is to have solid foundations. Every individual or institution who or which has not yet paid the first year's subscription is asked to expedite matters as far as possible.

When the list of members is available it will be possible to see where our strength and our weaknesses lie, and to consider what action to take to fill the gaps.

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A considerable number of copies of Bulletin no. 1 were prepared but the whole stock has now been distributed. Enquiries are beginning to be received from overseas, and if any members are prepared to give up their copies of no.1, would they please return them to Miss Ferrier so that she may satisfy some, at least, of the overseas requests.

When the first issue was prepared there had not been time to decide upon a rate of subscription for overseas buyers; this has now been fixed at 10s 6d (£1.50) per annum, payable to the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.

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In the editorial notes for no.1 I referred to the possibility of bringing to light unsuspected treasures in member-libraries. Shortly afterwards an account appeared in The Times of the discovery by the Rev. Dennis Duckworth, Librarian of the General Conference of the New Church, of the ms. of An Account of four journeys into the southern parts of Africa (1777-1779) by William Paterson, which is described as "probably the first direct account of South African exploration in the English language..." Although this work has little to do with philosophy or theology it is worth mention as an example of the sort of thing that could happen in our membership. If any such treasures are discovered, I hope that accounts will be provided for publication in this Bulletin; what a feather in our

cap it would be to be able to report, for the first time, the discovery of another incunabula, especially one not recorded in the Short Title Catalogue!

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The main contributions to this issue are accounts by Mr. R.L. Collison, Reference Librarian of Westminster Public Library, of SCOTAPLL, the predecessor in this country of our own association, and by Father F.Courtney, S.J., of the library of Heythrop College, Chipping Norton, Oxon. Father Courtney is Deputy Chairman of ABTAPL, and his paper is the first of a series describing libraries represented in the association.

The next issue will include an account of the National Central Library by Mr. S.P.L. Filon, B.Sc., F.L.A., its Deputy Librarian.

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Our reputation seems to have spread some distance already. I have received a package addressed to me as editor containing a copy of the January, 1957, issue of Antonianum, with a card bearing the legend "With the compliments of Padre Reinoud Weijenborg, O.F.M., Professore nel Pontificio Ateneo Antoniano, via Merulana 124, Roma. Please inform your readers about "Antonianum"." The details are - Antonianum; periodicum philosophico-theologicum trimestre. Editum cura professorum Pontificii Athenaei Antoniani de Urbe. Annus XXXII fasc.1. Januarius 1957. The main contents of the issue are - P.Julianus Eymar ab Angers: De visionis beatificae naturali desiderio apud Petrum Trigoso a Catalayud, O.F.M.Cap., 1533-1593. P.Humbertus Betti: I Frati Minori al Concilio Vaticano (continuabitur) P.Lucianus Ceyssens: La vingt-quatrième des trente-et-une propositions jansénistes condamnées en 1690. Subscription: "In Italia, L.it.2,500; Extra Italiam, Dollars 5-U.S.A.", and the address is as given above for Father Weijenborg

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I have also received an appeal for help. Mr. R. Staveley, F.L.A. of University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, is anxious to trace the following work for one of his professional colleagues. He described it thus - "The work is by Theodore Haak, a German who lived here and published in English. The title is "The CIV Psalm according to the German paraphrase of G.R.W. by T.H." London, 1679. The title is simply taken from a reference in L.Bentham's "Engelländischer Kirch- und Schulen-Staat", 1732, and the form of the title quoted has only that much authority. "G.W.R." is very probably Georg Rudolf Weckherlin, and "T.H." is obviously Theodore Haak, though it is not known whether the abbreviations are in the title or merely supplied by Bentham." Will anyone who can give any information (in the words of the police announcements on the radio) please communicate with Mr. Staveley at the above address (EUSTon 4400). (It would be pleasant if I, too, could be informed if the item is identified and found.)

R.J.H.

SCOTAPLL

The Standing Conference of Theological and Philosophical Libraries in London grew almost imperceptibly out of several informal meetings of librarians who were interested in improving the facilities for research in theology and philosophy in the Metropolis. These meetings were held at Dr. Williams's Library in 1948 at a time when conditions had never been worse in these subject-fields. Several of the libraries had suffered during the war, and nearly all of them were in difficulties owing to the post-war inflation. Nevertheless, between them they constituted probably the finest source of research material in the world.

There are at least fifty libraries in London which have a definite interest in the provision of material on theology and philosophy. Among these are five public libraries which take a particular interest owing to the Metropolitan Special Collections Scheme, under which they are responsible for various parts of the Dewey classes 100 to 299. The special libraries involved include some world-famous collections: Dr. Williams's Library, the Society of Friends, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Evangelical Library, and many more. Between them they probably buy a large proportion of the important books and periodicals on theology and philosophy, and yet the student or research worker who is searching for definite items often has to waste much time in tracing them, and very often fails to find what he wants. These libraries, too, have hidden strengths: thus, the Church Missionary Society, for instance, has a very fine collection on Islam to which it is constantly adding. And there is probably much duplication of purchases which could be reduced, thus making more money available for those items which no library is buying at present - a consideration of especial importance with regard to expensive reference works and foreign periodicals.

It was considerations of this kind which led to the formation of the Standing Conference. Prominent from the first in its work were the Rev. R. Thomas, Librarian of Dr. Williams's Library; Miss Joan Ferrier, Librarian of the C.M.S. and now Hon. Secretary of SCOTAPLL; Mr. Geoffrey Williams, Librarian of the Evangelical Library; and, Dr. Stephens Spinks, then Editor of the Hibbert Journal. The five public libraries - Fulham, Deptford, Hampstead, Hammersmith and Westminster - gave constant support from the start, and Mr. K.G. Hunt, Librarian of Hammersmith, gave powerful aid as Chairman during the Standing Conference's first two years.

SCOTAPLL has held meetings from time to time, but these are meetings of a working party rather than of a discussion group, and their purpose is to work out ways of promoting useful co-operation between member libraries. It was early decided to issue a Directory of relevant libraries, showing details of their service and stock, and this was published in 1951. The issue of a joint readers' ticket which would serve as an introduction to a whole group of libraries, and thus eliminate the necessity for writing individually to many different institutions, became the second project, and this service was introduced in May 1953. With the joint readers' ticket was issued a printed guide to the libraries which participate in the scheme, and this guide largely superseded the original directory which by now was both out-of-date and out of print.

Plans for the future of the Standing Conference at that time included the construction of a union list of periodicals, the issue of a news bulletin, and a survey of books and periodical purchase to ensure better coverage in theology and philosophy in the London area. None of these projects was achieved - largely owing to the shortage of staff in the libraries which were willing to undertake them - but the real achievement of SCOTAPLL may be said to lie in the friendly relations which have developed during the past 8 or 9 years between libraries of very varying interests both in the London area and further afield. The Standing Conference proved a focal point for theological and philosophical libraries which other organisations found very useful - for instance, SCOTAPLL was asked to help advise on the reorganisation of more than one famous library - and it played its part in building up a system by which readers and enquiries are directed to the right source of information. What SCOTAPLL's future is to be remains to be seen, but it is encouraging to note that the theological librarians who brought it into being have given their full support to the new national association.

Robert L. Collison

[Editorial Note. Mr. Collison's modesty has precluded him from including his own name among those prominent in the formation of SCOTAPLL, nor did he make it clear that he compiled the Directory and Guide which he mentions.

Copies of the guide and details of the research tickets scheme may still be had from Miss Ferrier; librarians outside London might find the information of use to themselves, and they might find it worth while to consider the possibility of instituting something of the sort in their own areas, as a first step towards a national scheme.]

The A.G.M. of SCOTAPLL was held in the Library of Sion College through the kind co-operation of the Hon. Librarian, the Rev. F.E.P.S. Langton, and of the Librarian, Miss E. Edmonston. An account of the library will appear in a later issue of this Bulletin.

The principal item on the Agenda was the question of the future relationship of SCOTAPLL to ABTAPL. Three possible courses were considered - (a) continuance as an entirely separate and independent body; (b) to become a local group of the national body; (c) to merge into the new body and to cease to have any separate existence at all.

The final decision was that SCOTAPLL should remain in existence, at least until the national association is well and truly established, but that it should apply to ABTAPL for incorporation as its first local branch. If the application were favourably received it would remain to work out appropriate financial arrangements and to secure approval of them from both bodies. It was regarded as likely that local groups would come into existence at some provincial centres, and this of itself would make it logical to have one for the Greater London area.

In the meantime, as SCOTAPLL has a balance in hand, no subscription would be payable for 1957, but outstanding subscriptions for 1956 would still be collected. All members of SCOTAPLL were urged to join the new association (it seems that there are some subscribers to SCOTAPLL who have not joined the new national body), and the fact that no dues would be collected for SCOTAPLL would mean that the subscription to ABTAPL would be the only one payable for 1957.

SCOTAPLL has never had a formal constitution, and its organisation has been informal throughout. It has been managed by an 'Acting' Committee for some time, and this body was asked to carry on in office until the future position of SCOTAPLL vis-à-vis ABTAPL is settled. The members of this committee are:- Chairman: Rev. R. Thomas; Hon. Secretary-Treasurer: Miss J. Ferrier; Mrs. A. Bennett, Mr. R.L. Collison, Mr. W. Creed, Dr. C.R. Dodwell, Rev. P. Eastman, Mr. R.J. Hoy.

Bibliographical notes

- Bloomfield (M.W.): A preliminary list of incipits of Latin works on the virtues and vices, mainly of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries. Traditio, 11, 1955, pp. 259-379.
- Schmidt (W.A.): Recent research in ecclesiastical history in Finland. Journal of ecclesiastical history, 7, no. 2, Oct. 1956, pp. 226-237.

Heythrop College Library is a private library for the use of professors and students of philosophy and theology of the English province of the Society of Jesus. It was founded at Liège in 1614, in which year Fr. John Gerard, the celebrated Jesuit missionary who is remembered for his escape from the Tower of London, established the first theologate of the Society of Jesus. Here the College and its library remained until 1794. In that year the arrival of the French Revolutionary troops caused the transference of the College, and as much of the library as a hasty flight allowed, to a new home at Stonyhurst, Lancashire.

We obtain a glimpse of the library as it was two hundred and fifty years ago from an account written by the Rev. Theophilus Dorrington, Rector of Wittresham in Kent, an Anglican clergyman who visited the College at Liège in 1698, and afterwards wrote an account of his travels in the Low Countries. "We went through a large room where they hold their disputes (i.e. disputations), thence into the library, which is a long narrow room like a gallery. It was well filled with books, which looked as if they were well used and studied. I may say of this Library, it is rather useful than fine. Over several partitions of shelves there was written at the top of the room, Libri Theologici, Libri Juridici, Libri Medici, Libri Mathematici etc."

It is remarkable how many of the books were brought over in 1794. Some hundreds of the books still in the Heythrop library bear the mark Ex Bibliotheca maiori Collegii Anglicani Sis: Jesu, Leodii. Others have English Academy, Liège.

Between 1773 and 1794 the College also housed boys from the English Jesuit College at Bruges, (earlier at St.Omer). It is known that St.Omer was on at least three occasions damaged by fire. On the second of these the College was saved by a "barrier of unbound books which the flames could not penetrate" - a somewhat surprising method of arresting a conflagration.

In 1830 the professors and students of philosophy and theology were accommodated in a new building on the Stonyhurst estate called St.Mary's Hall, and their library mark became Bib.(liotheca) Sem.(inarii). After eighteen years the theological books were again on their travels. The departments of philosophy and theology had been separated. A new theological College was established in 1848 at St.Beuno's, near St.Asaph, North Wales, and St.Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst was given over to the philosophers. Thus matters remained until 1926, in which year the departments and their libraries were re-united at Heythrop College, Oxon, some five miles from Chipping Norton.

By that time both libraries had grown considerably, and steady acquisitions have been made since by donation and purchase. At the present moment the library contains about 95,000 volumes and

about 6,000 pamphlets. Though its primary scope is philosophy, theology, scripture, oriental languages, canon law, and ecclesiastical history, the library also contains good collections in general history. It possesses some thirty incunables and several thousand books dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. It is particularly rich in collections of patristic and scholastic theology, of the church councils, and in seventeenth-century controversy. There is also a large collection of Catholic tracts and pamphlets covering the first half of the nineteenth century.

Among the many interesting or rare books in the library mention may be made of the following:- Ockham, Quodlibeta, Strasbourg, 1491; Super Potestate Pontificis Lyons, 1496; Dialogus et Compendium Errorum Johannis XXII, Lyons 1494; Adnotationes in Quattuor Libros Sententiarum, Lyons 1495; the three official editions of the Clementine Vulgate, 1592, 1593, 1598; and other editions of the Vulgate including Venice, 1484, Basle, 1491, Paris, 1526, Antwerp, 1580; first editions of the Rheims New Testament 1582, and the Douai Old Testament 1609-10; William of Paris, Opera, Venice 1516; Scotus, In Sententias, Venice, 1514 (two books formerly belonging to the monastery of Stavelot, and containing on the end-papers ninth-century manuscript leaves from a commentary of St. Augustine on the Psalms); Gerson, Opera, Strasbourg, 1494-1502; Richard Middleton, In Sententias, Venice, 1478; Origen, Opera, Paris, 1512; Innocent IV, Apparatus Mirificus, Paris, 1514; Innocent V, In Quattuor Libros Sententiarum, Toulouse, 1652; Wynkyn de Worde's edition of the Golden Legend, 1498; St. Thomas More, English Works (black letter), London, 1557; also his Opera Latina, Louvain, 1556; Guido de Monte Rocherii, Manipulus Curatorum, Albi, 1475; G. Biel Lectura Super Canone Missae, 1488; Florio, World of Wordes, London 1598, Lyra, Expositio Bibliae, Basle, 1507; Shakespeare, Fourth Folio, 1685.

These titles represent but a small fraction of the treasures of the library. Lack of space prevents anything like a complete list. There are very many autographs of former owners of the old books. A number of them are well-known names: C. Paget (the opponent of Fr. Persons), Thomas Stapleton (the Catholic controversialist), Thomas Hearne (the antiquary), Nicholas Shirburn of Stonyhurst, Horace Walpole, Nicholas Udall, Cardinal Wiseman, Sir Kenelm Digby, Dr. H. Sacheverell, Bishop Hay, J. Platel (the Jesuit Theologian), James Dowdall (the Capuchin Martyr); Edward Coffin (a 16th-century English Jesuit), Vincenzo Viviani, F. de Lamennais, Charles Butler, Robert Plowden S.J., J. Nieremberg S.J., Archbishop Laud, Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.

Very many of the volumes have belonged to libraries since broken up, and have been obtained by donation or purchase. Book plates of all kinds and dates abound, including those of Cardinals,

Bishops, Dukes, Earls, etc. Many of the books are from religious houses. They come from all over Europe. Some once belonged to houses of the Society in Paris, Ghent, Roermond and S. Andrea, Rome; there are books from the library of Cardinal Bellarmine, from Coimbra, Molsheim, Ingolstadt and Rheims. A number at one time belonged to residences of the Society in England. There are books from other religious communities - at Louvain, Limoges, Stavelot, Würzburg, and Rouen; from the communities of the Carmelites at Amiens, Liepaja, Madrid and Prague; of the Capuchins of Cologne, Brussels and Piacenza; from Benedictine Monasteries at Meaux, Rebais, Augsburg, and St. Gall; also from libraries at Limburg, Budapest, Passau, Bologna, Vienna, Dinant, Breslau, and from the National Library, Lisbon; others from Lincoln's Inn, Ingateston Hall, Alton Towers, Arundel, Sawston Hall, New Hall, Essex, Downside, Prior Park, and the Wolverhampton Politician Union with its stamp on every other page. Many interesting notes are written in the older books: family matters, jokes, commentaries on the text, remarks about the author, and quaintly-worded memoranda.

The Library possesses two sets of Migne's complete Patrologia, and complete sets of such standard collections as the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Pauly-Wissowa, Mansi, Concilia, Corpus Inscriptionum latinarum, the Berlin edition of the Greek Fathers (G.C.H.), The Vienna edition of the Latin Fathers, (C.S.E.L.), Patrologia Orientalis, Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum, Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium, Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae, the Acta Sanctorum, the various French theological dictionaries and liturgical collections, English and foreign encyclopaedias, Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, the Rolls Series, and State Papers.

About one hundred and fifty current periodicals are received, including many foreign ones. There are also a number of runs of periodicals, both English and foreign, chiefly philosophical and theological, which have ceased publication.

The librarian has prepared a list of philosophical and theological periodicals containing "desiderata" and "spares", and will send it on request to any member of the Association. A similar list of books is in course of preparation.

There is a complete author catalogue, and a useful subject catalogue still in course of compilation. The chief problem at present is that of suitable accommodation. Our present shelf space is strained to the limit. It is our earnest hope that the time is not far off when we will be able to build an entirely new library worthy of this magnificent collection and the educational work which it is intended to promote.

F. Courtney, S.J.